

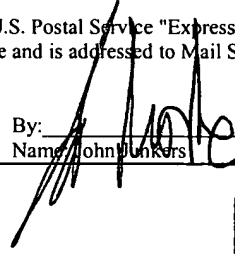
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|                   |                           |                        |                |
|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Applicant:        | HOF et al.                | Examiner:              | Unknown        |
| Serial No.:       | 10/573,932                | Group Art Unit:        | 3732           |
| Filed:            | November 2, 2006          | Docket:                | 09124.0146USWO |
| Confirmation No.: | 5381                      | Notice of Allow. Date: | N/A            |
| Due Date:         | N/A                       |                        |                |
| Title:            | SELF ADJUSTING INSTRUMENT |                        |                |

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10:**

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EV 851838705 US  
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By:   
Name: John Dinkers

Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**23552**  
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

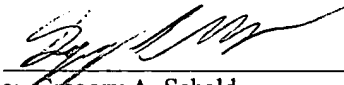
Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Preliminary Amendment
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

Merchant & Gould P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
612.332.5300

By:   
Name: Gregory A. Sebald  
Reg. No.: 33,280  
GAS/sbd

S/N 10/573,932

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|             |                           |                 |                |
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By: 

Name: John Junkers

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-identified application filed herewith, please enter the following preliminary amendment:

Please insert the **Abstract** page beginning on page 2 into the application as the last page thereof.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 15 of this paper.